

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 14 has been amended as follows:

14. (Amended) Product Paper product obtained by gluing two sheets of paper or one folded sheet of paper comprising at least two transparent or translucent ~~faces~~ panels attached one to the other by means of a deposit of adhesive or glue having a specific predetermined shape, wherein the said deposit of adhesive or glue is visible by transparence and by reflected light, and wherein said deposit of adhesive or glue has an aesthetic appearance.

New claim 40 has been added as follows:

40. (New) The product of claim 14, which is an envelope.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 14 has been amended and new claim 40 has been added.

Support for the terminology changes in claim 14 and for new claim 40 is found in particular on page 1, lines 19-20 and in Figure 1.

As a preliminary, Applicants submit that an object of the present invention is to provide a product such as an envelope which includes a pattern having a determined shape formed by a deposit of adhesive or glue which is visible by transparence or by reflection, the pattern having an aesthetic appearance.

This aesthetic pattern is made possible by a particular printing process according to the invention which applies a deposit of adhesive or glue having a predetermined shape, in such a way that the deposit of adhesive or glue maintains a determined and aesthetic shape after assembly and gluing of the product. Thus, the process according to the present invention is unlike conventional glue application methods, which result in an irregular and hardly controllable glue deposit pattern after assembly of the product.

Next, concerning the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action, in which restriction is required between Group (I), claims 14-33, drawn to a transparent envelope; and Group (II), claims 34-39, drawn to a process of making a transparent envelope, Applicants urge reconsideration and withdrawal of this restriction requirement.

Reference is made to the response of September 9, 2002, in which it was explained that a common special technical feature in claims 14-33 and 34-39 is a deposit of adhesive on a transparent or translucent face, as recited in claims 14 and 33, so that the application complied with the unity of

invention requirement.

Applicants forcefully traverse the assertion set forth in the Office Action that “depositing adhesive on a transparent or translucent face or substrate is old and well known.” No prior art or other evidence is cited in the Office Action to support this assertion. Applicants submit that maintaining a restriction requirement based on this unsupported assertion is the same as setting forth a prior art rejection without citing specific prior art, because the Examiner is in effect asserting that the deposit of adhesive, as recited in the claims, does not constitute a technical contribution to the art. ref

In particular, Applicants refer to the explanation above that the product of the present invention includes a deposit of glue such as obtained by the printing process of the present invention.

In summary, Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered in view of the proper “unity of invention” standard, which mandates sufficient evidentiary support for any assertion that the special common technical feature does not provide a technical contribution to the art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present claims comply with the unity of invention standard.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn. /

Next, in the Office Action, claims 14-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. It is alleged in the Office Action that, in claim 14, the terms “Products” and “faces” are vague, and in claim 15, the terms “front face” and “back face” on line 1 and “flaps” on line 2 are also indefinite and not illustrated.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary, a copy of the single sheet of drawings with figures 1 and 2 included in the present application is attached to this response.

Further, in claim 14, the term "Product" has been replaced by "Paper product obtained by gluing two sheets of paper or one folded sheet of paper" and the term "faces" has been replaced by "panels." Reference is made in particular to Figure 1, which clearly shows panels 2,3 and deposits of adhesive or glue 9-11 and 12-14 as recited in present claim 14, as well as a back face 3 having two flaps 4 and 5 and a lower flap 2 attached to these flaps 4 and 5, the lower flap 2 thus forming the front face, as recited in present claim 15.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the indefiniteness rejection should be withdrawn.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 14-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over EP 0 256 731 (EP'731) taken alone or in view of US 5 687 903 to Akridge et al. (Akridge). Specifically, it is alleged that the glue is inherently visible through transparent or translucent material in the envelope of EP'731 and that Akridge discloses parallel glue lines to form an envelope.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. It is submitted that EP'731 does not mention the type of glue, so that it is not possible to determine whether the glue would be visible by transparenence or by reflection through the transparent or translucent paper.

Further, it is submitted that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no particular motivation to select a glue which is visible by transparenence in the product of EP'731. Rather, prior to the present invention, a conventional objective was to avoid that the glue be seen by transparenence. Therefore, it is most probable that the glue in the product of EP'731 would not be visible by transparenence.

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refractive
index,
inherent

In addition, EP'731 does not mention the process used to deposit glue. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would use a conventional process as described in the introduction to the present specification, according to which the shape and thickness of the deposit of glue is not controlled so as to provide a predetermined shape having an aesthetic character.

restricted

Now, regarding Akridge, this reference describes an envelope which is not transparent or translucent like the product in EP'731, so that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have no suggestion or motivation to combine EP'731 and Akridge. In particular, that person would not be motivated to adopt a different form of glue deposit because, as explained above, the glue deposit would be expected not to be visible.

*envelope
same
field of
endeavor*

Even if, arguendo, a person of the art, in an attempt to modify EP'731, referred to Akridge, that person would find no suggestion or motivation to apply the glue deposits of Akridge in the product of EP'731, because that person would find no guidance in Akridge as to whether the glue deposits maintain their shapes after application of the fold on the glue.

*not in
offic
ation.*

In contrast, the present inventors have determined that conventional processes for applying a glue deposit result in a random, irregular, and uncontrollable shape which is inaesthetic in particular in the case of transparent or translucent envelope. Accordingly, the present inventors have developed a printing process which makes it possible to apply an adhesive or glue deposit having a predetermined shape, so that the deposit of adhesive or glue has an aesthetic appearance by transparenence and by reflection in the finished product. These features of the present invention and its advantages are not taught or suggested in any of the cited references, and therefore, the present claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

*process,
restricted*

In view of the above, it is submitted that the prior art rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

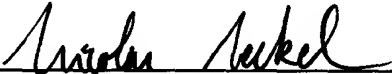
Serial Number: 09/647,360

Group Art Unit: 1771

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340. In the event any additional fees are required in connection with this response, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl.: Copy of Sheet of Drawing in Application
Petition for One-Month Extension of Time